



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

23 MAY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Highly Likely North Korea Group Behind Ransomware Attacks

(U) Cyber security firm Symantec Corp said yesterday it was highly likely a hacking group affiliated with North Korea was behind the WannaCry cyber-attack that infected more than 300,000 computers worldwide and disrupted hospitals, banks, and schools across the globe. Symantec researchers said they had found multiple instances of code that had been used both in the North Korea-linked group's previous activity and in early versions of WannaCry. In addition, the same Internet connection was used to install an early version on two computers and to communicate with a tool that destroyed files at Sony Pictures Entertainment. The US government and private companies have accused North Korea in the 2014 Sony attack. North Korea has routinely denied any such role. Yesterday it called earlier reports that it might have been behind the attack "a dirty and despicable smear campaign."

SOURCE: 22 May 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) New Jersey – Hacker Gets Prison in US Insider Trading Case

(U) Newark – A Ukrainian computer hacker was sentenced yesterday to 2-1/2 years in prison over his role in a global scheme to conduct insider trading based on stolen, yet-to-be-published corporate news releases, US prosecutors said. Vadym Iermolovych, 29, of Kiev, had been the first hacker to admit criminal wrongdoing, in what authorities have called the largest known hacking scheme to game financial markets, leading to more than \$100 million of legal profit. Iermolovych was sentenced after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit computer hacking, and aggravated identity theft.

SOURCE: 22 May 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – Police Ramp up Security After Manchester Blast

(U) New York – Police increased security at tourist hot-spots and other heavily-trafficked areas after an explosion outside an Ariana Grande concert killed more than a dozen people and injured scores more at an arena in Britain yesterday. The officials said there were no new specific threats to New York and that the increase in security is precautionary. Governor Cuomo said that state law enforcement officers will step up security and patrols in response. Officials said New Yorkers should expect to see additional counter-terrorism officers, explosive detection dogs and subway bag-check points.

SOURCE: 22 May 2017, [NBC New York](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Authorities Crack Europe-Wide Burglary Gang of 500 Members

(U) Munich – Police say they have broken up a huge burglary clan which they estimate may have been responsible for a fifth of German break-ins. The criminal gang was compared by police to an octopus with tentacles across Europe and its members were related by blood or marriage. The investigation began when three women were caught trying to break into a property in Munich in January 2016. It has

led to arrests in Croatia and Spain as well as in Germany. Reinhold Bergmann, police commissioner for organized burglary, told reporters that the gang could have dozens of other tentacles operating in other countries such as Belgium, France, and Italy.

SOURCE: 23 May 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Suicide Bomber Kills at Least 22 at Concert, ISIS Claims Responsibility

(U) Manchester – A suicide bomber killed at least 22 people and wounded 59 at a packed concert hall in the city of Manchester in what Prime Minister Theresa May called a sickening act targeting children and young people. May said police believed they knew the identity of the bomber and police then said a 23-year-old man had been arrested about the attack carried out late yesterday evening as people began leaving a concert given by Ariana Grande, a US singer who attracts many young and teenage fans. The northern English city remains on high alert. The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) has claimed it was behind the attack in Manchester. The statement was made via ISIS channels on the messaging app Telegram and claimed the attack was carried out with an explosive device planted at the concert.

SOURCE: 23 May 2017, [Reuters](#) and [BBC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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